



General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 April 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 16 Economic development in Europe

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).
2. Regulation 4.13 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in the annex are as follows: modification of the overall orientation (paras. 16.1 and 16.2) and of subprogramme 1 (para. 16.6); subprogramme 2 (para. 16.11); subprogramme 5 (para. 16.26); and subprogramme 6 (paras. 16.30-16.34). It is proposed to replace the old subprogramme 6 with a new one, entitled, Trade development, and to add a new subprogramme 9, Industrial restructuring and enterprise development.
4. The Bureau of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development agreed on 11 February 2002 that subprogramme 6, Trade, industry and enterprise development, should be divided into two subprogrammes as follows:
 - (a) Subprogramme 6, Trade development, which will deal with issues related to trade, including improving the institutional environment for trade; establishing and harmonizing norms, standards and guidelines related to trade and trade facilitation; and examining the impact of these areas on trade policies at national, regional and international levels within the multilateral trade framework;
 - (b) Subprogramme 9, Industrial restructuring and enterprise development, which will deal with issues related to industry and enterprise development, including



promoting the development of an institutional environment conducive to sustainable industrial activities, good corporate governance, intellectual property and real estate markets, enterprise creation and capacity-building for e-business.

5. The responsible sectoral body for both subprogrammes will continue to be the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. The justification for this proposal could be summarized as follows:

(a) The existing subprogramme covering trade and industry, as well as enterprise development, has proved to be too diverse;

(b) As a result, the constituency of governmental representatives and experts involved in this programme of work is very heterogeneous;

(c) The variety and range of issues covered by the subprogramme as it currently stands make it difficult to plan activities in the context of the programme budget, as well as to monitor and report on them in compliance with the requirements of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

6. Subsequently, the ECE Group of Experts on the Programme of Work considered revisions to the whole programme on 21 February 2002 but made no particular comments.

7. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, Sects. 1-33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

8. In the proposed revisions, new text to be inserted appears in boldface type, and text to be deleted appears in ~~strikeout~~ type. An explanation of the changes is provided in *italic* type within brackets.

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 16, Economic development in Europe

Overall orientation

16.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to strengthen the economic relations of the member countries, among themselves and with other countries of the world, in order to improve the quality of life, increase the security of the people and ensure sustainable development. The principal mandates of the programme are provided in resolutions of the General Assembly, **including in particular resolution 55/2 on the Millennium Declaration and other relevant resolutions on the outcome of the global events held recently, and as well as resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.** In its resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, the Council established the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and assigned to it responsibilities for coordination and promotion of international economic cooperation in Europe. Further direction to the programme is provided in ECE resolutions and decisions, in particular, the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and its annexed Plan of Action, both endorsed by the Council in its decision 1997/224. **Any further guidance to the programme as an outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in August and September 2002, will be taken into account in implementing the work programme.** Substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in ECE, supported by its secretariat. *[changed to reflect additional mandates adopted recently or to be adopted in the course of the remaining period covered by the medium-term plan]*

16.2 The overall strategy of ECE is designed around **eight nine** interdependent and complementary subprogrammes. The strategy involves the development of economic data, studies and policy analysis, the negotiation of conventions, norms and guidelines, the promotion of dialogue and the exchange of information and experience. Thus, ECE expects to contribute to preventing the emergence of new dividing lines in Europe, taking advantage of its established role as the only pan-European/North American neutral forum for forging integrating tools in economic and technical areas where all Governments participate as full members and on an equal footing. *[changed to reflect the inclusion of the new subprogramme 9]*

Subprogramme 1 Environment

Strategy

16.6 Within ECE, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Environment and Human Settlements Division. The subprogramme will be implemented under the guidance of the Committee on Environmental Policy and, at the ministerial level, through the follow-up to the "Environment for Europe" Conference, to be held in Kiev in **2002-2003**, and the preparation for the Environment and Health Conference, to be held in Budapest in 2004. Activities will be aimed at strengthening institutional capacity in member countries, in part through regional advisory services and the sharing of experiences among them in different areas: reducing air pollution, safeguarding aquatic ecosystems, preventing and reducing water-related diseases, preventing the adverse effects of industrial accidents, promoting public access to environmental information and increasing public participation in environmental decision-making. Cross-sectoral cooperation, both across the environmental areas and between different sectors (environment, transport, health and energy), will be promoted through the provision of catalysing forums for the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the governing bodies of regional conventions and protocols. *[changed to update the date of the Kiev conference]*

Subprogramme 2 Transport

Strategy

16.11 Within ECE, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The subprogramme would be implemented through the activities of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, which is serviced by the ECE secretariat. ~~The results of the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 1997) and the follow-up to the~~

mid-term review ~~conference in 2002 of the Vienna Regional Ministerial Conference on Transport and the Environment and to the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, to be held in 2002~~, will be implemented. Activities will mainly centre on the organization of intergovernmental meetings, seminars and workshops and the preparation of documents and publications. Through these activities, a forum for Governments to exchange information and views on transport trends and policies in the region will be provided. Assistance will be provided to countries with economies in transition through regional advisory services and training workshops. Subregional cooperation projects will be carried out aiming at the coordinated development of transport infrastructure corridors and networks in central and eastern parts of Europe as well as in the member countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. *[changed to update references to the two regional events referred to above]*

Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy

Strategy

16.26 Within ECE, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division. The subprogramme will continue to emphasize the development and implementation of sustainable energy policies and strategies; the enhancement of energy efficiency; the efficient production, transport and use of natural gas; the implementation of environmentally sound coal mining and use technologies; and the further increase in electric power interconnections. In addition, increased emphasis will be given to the sustainable use of petroleum products, namely in respect to transport and the environment, as well as to enhancing the use of new and renewable sources of energy. Regional conclusions, proposals and recommendations on sustainable energy adopted by the ~~Commission World Summit on Sustainable Development at its ninth session in 2001 in 2002~~ will be implemented. In the light of the outcome of the ~~ninth session of the Commission Summit~~ and the Environment Ministers Conference in 2002 2003 under the Environment for Europe process, related activities will reflect a revised programme of work, focused on the development of sustainable energy policies and strategies at the

national and intergovernmental levels. *[changed to update references to the convening and outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development]*

Subprogramme 6 Trade, industry and enterprise development

[subprogramme changed to reflect structural changes]

Objective

16.30 The objective is to facilitate and develop the infrastructure for international trade in terms of trade-related norms, standards, tools and policy recommendations; to reduce the main internal and external obstacles to the development of foreign trade, ~~investment enterprise activities~~ and economic cooperation in the ECE region; and to further the integration of countries with economies in transition into the global economy.

Strategy

16.31 Within ECE, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Trade Development and Timber Division. The subprogramme will be implemented through the exchange of experiences gained by both developed market economies and transition economies leading to the development of policy guidelines and recommendations in different areas. These areas include ~~the promotion of entrepreneurship~~, cross-border trade, transit trade operations, ~~marketing trade promotion~~ and financing techniques and the implications of globalization and regional trading arrangements for foreign trade and foreign direct investment in the region. Coverage will be given to legislation and administrative procedures in conformity with relevant provisions of the World Trade Organization, the European Union and other relevant bodies. Standards and recommendations will be developed for agricultural produce and will be disseminated among countries trading with ECE markets and among users at different levels. Capacity-building activities (seminars, workshops and advisory services) will be carried out for institutions dealing with ~~commercial, business and property laws trade~~.

16.32 Through these activities, the subprogramme will facilitate the decision-making of policy makers and economic actors, in particular in countries with

economies in transition, on the promotion and development of trade, investment and enterprise development. Simple, transparent and effective processes will be developed for the exchange of products and services by business, trade and administrative organizations in order to accelerate the growth, scope and benefits of world trade, in particular through recommendations and norms for trade facilitation and electronic business. Meetings of expert groups under the Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport will be used to develop recommendations and norms for trade facilitation and electronic business. A forum will be provided for member States, in particular those with economies in transition, for the coordination and harmonization of standardization policies affecting international trade, including those related to technical regulations, conformity assessment, quality assurance and metrology, and to increase their awareness of developments in those fields. Greater efficiencies in trade- and enterprise-related areas and the development of well-functioning market economies will be promoted in all member States.

Expected accomplishments

16.33 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) effective changes in practices and legislation in the field of trade and investment; (b) greater use of standardized trade practices and procedures in the ECE region; (c) dissemination of information on best practices in international trade; (d) recommendations on trade facilitation and United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) standards; (e) promotion of public-private partnership in economies in transition; and (f) new and updated international standards and recommendations on agricultural produce. (a) agreement by member States on simpler and more effective trade practices and procedures; (b) an enhanced policy dialogue on the development of trade; (c) the adoption of new recommendations on trade facilitation and electronic business; and (d) new and updated international standards and recommendations on agricultural produce.

Indicators of achievement

16.34 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the use of ECE guides for foreign investment, trade

promotion and commercial practices, in the context of a market economy, by countries with economies in transition; (b) the further development and maintenance of UN/EDIFACT standards; (c) the number of ECE recommendations accepted and implemented by countries; and (d) the level of participation of the private sector in the trade-related activities of ECE. (a) the number of ECE trade facilitation recommendations accepted and implemented by countries; (b) strengthened participation of member States in terms of the number of participants and their level of authority in policy dialogue on issues related to development of trade; (c) the number of new recommendations on trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by countries with economies in transition of the region; and (d) the number of agreed new or revised international standards and recommendations on agricultural produce.

Subprogramme 9 Industrial restructuring and enterprise development

[new subprogramme]

Objective

16.45 The objectives are to create an enabling environment for the formation and evolution of private enterprise and entrepreneurial activities, to increase the competitiveness of enterprises and to ensure the sustainability of industrial development in countries with economies in transition.

Strategy

16.46 Within ECE, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Division. The subprogramme will be implemented through the exchange of experiences gained by developed market economies and economies in transition and through meetings of expert groups, resulting in the development of policy recommendations in different areas. These areas cover the facilitation of industrial restructuring and modernization, taking into account the socio-economic impact of industrial restructuring; the development of electronic business; the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, including

entrepreneurship for women and youth; intellectual property and real estate markets; corporate management; enhancement of the competitiveness of local producers; and the development of quality assurance systems and their application by enterprises. Forums will be provided for Member States, industrial business associations and representatives of the academic community for discussing industry and enterprise development issues in order to provide support for government policies and institutions and to ensure that the rules of the game are transparent, fully understood and complied with by all economic agents. Capacity-building activities (seminars, workshops, training the trainers, study tours and advisory services) will also be carried out, tailored to the needs of governmental structures and business networks involved in the regulation of industrial business activity.

16.47 Through these activities, the subprogramme will, with a particular focus on countries with economies in transition, facilitate the development of an institutional environment conducive to sustainable industrial and entrepreneurial activities and promote sound and socially responsible corporate management, technological innovation, efficient allocation and effective utilization of resources, and hence enhanced competitiveness of national producers.

Expected accomplishments

16.48 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) enhanced policy dialogue on industrial restructuring and modernization; (b) implementation in countries with economies in transition of ECE guidelines on best practices for promoting investment in public-private partnerships, land for development and innovation; (c) adoption of policies and measures by countries with economies in transition in favour of the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises; (d) better knowledge of the electronic capacity of countries with economies in transition.

Indicators of achievement

16.49 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number and level of participants who are in a position to engage in policy dialogue on the issues addressed and to contribute to the implementation

of policy conclusions resulting from this dialogue; (b) the number of countries with economies in transition expressing a commitment to initiate changes in their legislation and practices relating to investment in public-private partnerships, land for development and innovation; (c) the number of countries with economies in transition adopting policies and measures in support of the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises; (d) identification of the needs of selected countries with economies in transition to improve their electronic capacity, as reflected in electronic readiness appraisal reports prepared by ECE.

Legislative mandates

Programme 16 Economic development in Europe

General Assembly resolutions

55/2 **United Nations Millennium Declaration**

Subprogramme 1 Environment

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2001/3, annex **Decisions and recommendations adopted by the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, endorsed by ECE at its fifty-sixth session (E/2001/37, para. 46)**

Subprogramme 2 Transport

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2001/3, annex **Decisions and recommendations adopted by the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, endorsed by ECE at its fifty-sixth session (E/2001/37, para. 46)**

Subprogramme 6 ~~Trade, industry and enterprise development~~ Trade development

[new title]

Subprogramme 9 Industrial restructuring and enterprise development

General Assembly resolution

50/95 **International trade and development**

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/76 **Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation**

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

C (49) **Promoting the expansion of trade for products from the countries in transition in international markets**



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Programme 17

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).
2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in the annex are as follows: modification of the overall orientation (para. 17.3) and of subprogramme 4 (paras. 17.21-17.23); subprogramme 5 (paras. 17.25, 17.27 and 17.28); and subprogramme 10 (paras. 17.48-17.50). The revisions reflect the adoption of new mandates, in particular General Assembly resolutions 55/2 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and 56/95 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.
4. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is responsible for reviewing the revisions proposed under the programme. Consultations with the Commission are expected to take place during its next session, scheduled for May 2002 in Brasilia.
5. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, sects. 1-33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.
6. In the proposed revisions, new text to be inserted appears in boldface type, and text to be deleted appears in strikeout type. An explanation of the changes is provided in italic type within brackets.



Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Overall orientation

Strategy

17.3 The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme is structured around 12 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes. It is based on the proposal for changing production patterns with social equity for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by ECLAC in its resolution 519 (XXIV). **It also takes into account the relevant provisions of the Millennium Declaration, especially those related to poverty reduction, including gender mainstreaming; sustainable development; international cooperation to solve, social, cultural and humanitarian issues; transparency of monetary, financial and trade systems at the national and international levels; and furtherance of the special needs of small island developing States.** The strategy will be implemented through an integrated approach. This approach is reflected in each of the subprogrammes at two levels: the goal of social equity, which emerges in its various dimensions in all subprogrammes; and, notwithstanding the effective specialization of each, emphasis on the strong links between the subprogrammes. ~~Gender mainstreaming, consideration of environmental sustainability, institution-building and improvement of public regulation are priority aspects of such interrelationships.~~ The strategy places special emphasis, in terms of analytical work, on the design of public policy and on facilitating its practical implementation through operational services in the areas of specialized information, technical assistance and training and by fostering cooperation at the regional and international levels. *[changed to reflect the relevant elements of the Millennium Declaration and the roadmap towards its implementation (A/56/326)]*

Subprogramme 4

Social development and equity

Strategy

17.21 As part of the strategy, methodological inputs will be provided through the development of new criteria for measuring efficiency in the use of resources and effectiveness in the execution of social policies, programmes and projects. An attempt will be made to strengthen social institutions and evaluate results, with special attention paid to factors and situations that affect vulnerable groups. Stronger interaction between this and other subprogrammes will be promoted to identify and analyse factors that enhance equity and social integration. **In the context of social development and equity, special emphasis will be given to consolidating the approach to development based on human rights and the promotion of peace and democracy.** Policy proposals will be developed on the basis of this integrated approach. This strategy requires a mix of policy-making activities involving analysis, methodology, assessment and formulation of proposals together with relevant technical cooperation activities. Support will be provided to countries in the review, design and implementation of new or additional policies, mechanisms and instruments, as appropriate. The mix of policy-making activities will include technical cooperation, consultancy missions and training in methodologies and assessment. In addition, the strategy will facilitate follow-up of studies and strengthen coordinated action by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations in the areas of production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs. Policies, programmes and projects aimed at overcoming poverty will be facilitated by systematizing and analysing crucial information, preparing diagnostic analyses and developing methodologies. *[changed to reflect emerging issues stemming from the World Summit for Social Development, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the Millennium Declaration]*

Expected accomplishments

17.22 The expected accomplishment would include: (a) strengthened capacity of countries to design and implement policies that target the most underprivileged sectors so as to increase the quality of human capital, and foster social equity and reduce poverty with a focus on gender inequality; (b) strengthened international and regional cooperation and increased capacity of national social institutions to analyse and share their experiences in managing social policies, programmes and projects and to incorporate any necessary adjustments; ~~(c) facilitation of the appropriate design and review of policies, programmes and projects aimed at overcoming poverty;~~ ~~(d)(c) increased coordination among national and regional actors engaged strengthened international and regional cooperation and increased capacity of programmes in the prevention of drug consumption and the control of drug trafficking and improved efficiency of programmes in terms of targeting, selectivity and impact; and (e) strengthened capacity of Member States of the region to manage and mitigate the adverse social impacts of structural adjustment measures as well as the challenges of globalization problems to their economies;~~ (e) improved analytical capacity to mainstream gender concerns in social policy and programming. *[changed to reflect table 19.13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253]*

Indicators of achievement

17.23 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) ~~the number of expression of satisfaction by member countries receiving analytical inputs, policy recommendations with the timeliness, significance and relevance of the information, advice and technical cooperation provided by from the Commission that undertake the revision and/or reform of their social policies in a manner consistent with ECLAC recommendations and proposals to be measured through various means, such as surveys, reviews and quotations in specialist literature and the opinion of eminent experts in the field;~~ (b) increased sharing of best practices and lessons learned regarding the design and implementation of social an increase in the capacity of Governments to adapt policies, programmes and projects among member States and guidelines to changing circumstances; and (c) the

~~fulfilment by ECLAC of the demand for advice and training (c) the degree of satisfaction expressed by member countries with the usefulness of inter-agency and expert forums organized and/or serviced by the Commission intended to facilitate programme coordination in the prevention of drug consumption; (d) an increase in the number of countries using the analytical inputs, policy proposals and technical cooperation services provided by the Commission on the prevention of drug consumption and the control of drug trafficking for policy purposes; and (e) increased inclusion of gender issues in social policies and programming.~~ *[changed to reflect table 19.13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253]*

Subprogramme 5 Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development

Strategy

17.25 Substantive responsibility for the execution of this subprogramme rests with the Women and Development Unit in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission. The strategy will be pursued by promoting the consolidation and strengthening of the institutional mechanism in the region for reducing the gender gap in various spheres of development. The region's capacity for research and development related to gender issues **and for using a core set of gender indicators for public policy formulation and implementation** will be strengthened. and Countries will be assisted in analysing priority issues for gender equity and for mainstreaming the gender perspective in all relevant activities. *[changed to reflect, inter alia, ECLAC resolution 576 (XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/27]*

Expected accomplishments

17.27 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) strengthened and consolidated national and regional institutions ~~whose purpose is intended to reduce the gender gap in various spheres of development~~ and (b) increased and systematic incorporation of the gender perspective into **national sectoral institutions as well as into the ECLAC work programme.** *[changed*

to reflect table 19.15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253]

Indicators of achievement

17.28 The indicators of achievement would be: (a) ~~the expression of satisfaction by member countries with increased use of up-to-date information analysis and gender-sensitive indicators, methodologies and information developed and provided by the Commission to support national and regional institutions regarding on priority issues; contained in the programmes of action;~~ and (b) ~~an increase in the number of ECLAC subprogrammes and extrabudgetary projects which, by the end of the period, have systematically incorporated the gender perspective into their principal ongoing activities; and extrabudgetary projects.~~ (c) **improved consolidation of national and regional institutions dealing with gender issues;** (d) **increased sharing of experiences and lessons learned in relation to the implementation of the regional programme;** (e) **the number of countries receiving conceptual inputs and technical cooperation from ECLAC that report by the end of the period of the medium-term plan favourable trends in the implementation of the agreements and goals of the Beijing Platform for Action;** and (f) **the number of countries in the region using the agreed core set of gender indicators in their national reports to be presented for the ten-year benchmark of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2005.** [changed to reflect table 19.15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253; one indicator added to reflect a change in the strategy]

Subprogramme 10 Statistics and economic projections

Strategy

17.48 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme rests with the Statistics and Economic Projections Division. The strategy is geared towards **strengthening the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and meeting the demand for information arising from new economic modalities**

in the region engendered by economic, social and institutional reforms and the growing internationalization of economies and societies. The production of statistics as well as the data banks of the Commission's technical cooperation programmes (at the methodological, technological and training levels) will be further expanded and strengthened. In the economic sphere, specific aspects, such as internal and external financing, modern services and variations in the value of physical and financial stocks will be considered. In the social sphere, equity-related issues will be accounted for in evaluating new economic modalities such as poverty, income distribution and the informal or low-productivity sectors. Prospective studies and projections will be produced to gauge trends in the new regional context and challenges arising in the economic and social spheres and to provide tools for the evaluation of advantages, costs and challenges corresponding to differing development scenarios. The subprogramme will pursue the strengthening of capacity for analysing current economic events in order to assist countries with their short-term policies and the introduction of methods and techniques for improving thematic and geographical coverage as well as the quality of statistical data. [changed to reflect the new mandate related to the Statistical Conference of the Americas]

Expected accomplishments

17.49 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased capacity of ECLAC and member countries to produce statistics, to expand, update and develop data banks, **including those related to environment and gender indicators**, and to generate analyses of current economic trends as inputs for the management of short-term policies; and (b) expanded and improved technical capacity of countries in the region to produce statistics and forecasts as inputs for developing economic and social programmes in the short, medium and long term. [changed to reflect table 19.25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253]

Indicators of achievement

17.50 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) ~~an increase in the number~~ **improved timeliness, reliability and comparability** of databases and expansion of their coverage; (b) an increase in the use of ECLAC statistical

information in forecasts by countries and regional or international organizations; ~~(e) the satisfaction of requests for technical cooperation in the area of statistics and projections;~~ (c) an increase in the systematic availability and use of gender indicators for policy-making purposes, as measured by the satisfaction expressed by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, national statistical offices and women's bureaus; and (d) the widespread adoption and dissemination by countries in the region of methodological and technological advances that ECLAC assists in channelling, in particular the harmonized commodity description and coding system. *[changed to reflect table 19.25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253]*

Legislative mandates

Programme 17

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

General Assembly resolutions

- ~~53/28~~ — ~~Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. (Subprogrammes 4, 5, 11 and 12)~~
- ~~54/141~~ — ~~Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Subprogrammes 5, 11 and 12)~~
- ~~54/197~~ — ~~Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in the developing countries (Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 10)~~
- ~~54/211~~ — ~~Developing human resources for development (Subprogrammes 4 and 5)~~
- ~~54/232~~ — ~~Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty~~
- 55/2** **United Nations Millennium Declaration (all subprogrammes)**
- ~~54/198~~ **55/182** **International trade and development (subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12)**
- 55/199** **Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (subprogrammes 8 and 12)**
- 56/95** **Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (all subprogrammes)**
- 56/132** **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (subprogrammes 5, 11 and 12)**
- 56/150** **The right to development (all subprogrammes)**
- 56/177** **Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (subprogrammes 4, 5, 11 and 12)**
- 56/181** **Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity (subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 10)**
- ~~54/204~~ **56/182** **Science and technology for development (subprogrammes 2 and 12)**
- ~~54/210~~ **56/188** **Women in development (subprogrammes 5, 11 and 12)**
- 56/189** **Human resources development (subprogrammes 2, 4 and 5)**
- 56/195** **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (subprogrammes 11 and 12)**

- 56/199** **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (subprogrammes 8 and 9)**
- 56/207** **Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication (subprogrammes 4, 5, 11 and 12)**
- ~~54/231~~ **56/209** **Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 10)**
- 56/226** **World Summit on Sustainable Development (subprogrammes 8, 9, 11 and 12)**
- 56/228** **Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (subprogrammes 4 and 6)**

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- ~~1999/55~~ ~~Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (Subprogrammes 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12)~~
- 2000/27** **Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels (subprogrammes 4, 5 and 6)**
- 2001/21** **Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits (subprogrammes 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12)**
- ~~1999/61~~ **2001/31** **Science and technology for development (subprogrammes 2 and 12)**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

- ~~566(XXVII)~~ ~~Programme of Work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2000-2001 (All Subprogrammes)~~
- 578 (XXVIII)** **Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2002-2003 (all subprogrammes)**

Subprogramme 4

Social development and equity

General Assembly resolutions

- ~~50/81~~ ~~World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond~~
- ~~51/202~~ ~~Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development~~
- ~~54/24~~ ~~Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages~~

- 54/121 56/115** Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
- 54/120 56/117** Policies and programmes involving youth
- 54/132 56/124** International cooperation against the world drug problem
- 56/165** Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1997/56** First regional meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to evaluate the World Summit for Social Development
- 1998/46** Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Subprogramme 5

Gender mainstreaming in regional development

General Assembly resolutions

- 50/203** ~~Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action~~
- 56/229** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1998/43** ~~Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system~~
- 2001/5** Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues
- 2001/41** Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

- 576 (XXVIII)** Follow-up to the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001

Subprogramme 10

Statistics and economic projections

General Assembly resolutions

- 53/169** ~~Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence~~

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2000/7 **Establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of
the Economic Commission for Latin America and the
Caribbean**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

580 (XXVIII) **Establishment of the statistical conference of the Americas of
the Economic Commission for Latin America and the
Caribbean**

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
19 April 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session**Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan
for the period 2002-2005****Programme 18****Economic and social development in Western Asia**

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).
2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in the annex substantially modify programme 18.
4. In March 2002, the fourth special session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was called to apprise its member States of follow-up action to the recommendation of the twenty-first session of the Commission in May 2001, which stipulated that ESCWA secretariat activities should focus on a limited number of priorities and be correspondingly restricted and that attention should be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration; and on reviewing the existing organizational structure of the secretariat in order best to serve Arab integration. This recommendation, along with the need to observe the guiding principles of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the need to respond more effectively to the major economic transformations and leaps forward in information and communications technology, precipitated by globalization, led to the programmatic restructuring of the secretariat and to organizational restructuring in line with the programmatic changes effected.
5. The revised programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was discussed and endorsed by the session (Commission resolution 238 (S-IV) on



the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, revised programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2002-2003 of 11 March 2002). Guided by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session, the following major changes were introduced:

(a) Issues relating to agriculture and industry were linked to those of environment, energy and natural resources, owing to the common nature of the matters that need to be tackled, thereby integrating the management of water and energy and the production sectors;

(b) The functions relating to social issues were refocused to advance the promotion of integrated social policies for the ESCWA region;

(c) The functions of the subprogramme and of the related division dealing with economic issues were refocused to enhance the capacity of member countries to coordinate their economic policies and achieve economic development by providing quantitative assessment of economic and financial trends;

(d) The fact that globalization is a driving force that is shaping development at all levels was accounted for by creating a division that deals with issues and challenges posed by globalization, namely, transboundary flows of goods, persons, capital and services. This will, in turn, reinforce the process of regional integration, which is being addressed within the same division;

(e) The rapid developments in information and communication technology necessitated the creation of a new subprogramme and of the related division to deal with information and communication technology issues to help bridge the gap created by rapid advancement in this field by assisting member States in increasing their capabilities in this area;

(f) Statistical activities were strengthened by combining the technical and substantive components thereof and by assigning a unit to oversee the coordination of statistical activities, which cut across all the divisions.

6. The new subprogramme structure of programme 18 is as follows:

Subprogramme 1. Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development;

Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies;

Subprogramme 3. Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development;

Subprogramme 4. Regional integration and responding to globalization;

Subprogramme 5. Information and communication technology for regional integration;

Subprogramme 6. Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making.

7. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, Sects.

1-33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

8. While new text proposed for insertion in the medium-term plan usually appears in boldface type, such is not the case for programme 18, as the entire narrative is new. However, in the proposed revisions to the section on legislative mandates that follows the narrative, new text to be inserted does appear in boldface type and text to be deleted appears in ~~strikeout type~~.

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia

Overall orientation

18.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to nurture comprehensive, integrated, equitable and sustainable economic and social development, at both the national and regional levels, that would ultimately allow the countries of the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to manage effectively the rapidly changing economic world environment and enhance the quality of life for the people. To this end, the programme will stimulate regional cooperation and integration by providing support to member countries in formulating regional programmes, mechanisms and solutions in both the economic and social fields that would assist them in achieving synergies and common positions, thus facilitating both regional integration and a balanced integration into the world economy, while taking into consideration national, regional and global concerns.

18.2 The ultimate contribution of ESCWA is based on assisting member countries in creating an enabling environment that would stimulate the achievement of sustainable development with its three interdependent and mutually reinforcing components: economic development, social development and protection of the environment.

18.3 The direction of the programme is provided in resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, which, in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, established the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and which, in its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, amended those terms in order to underscore the social dimension of the functions of the Commission, at which time the name was altered to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in order to reflect that change. Further direction to the programme is provided in ESCWA resolutions, in particular, its resolution 220 (XX) on the adoption, by ESCWA member countries, of the Beirut Declaration, dated 27 May 1999, on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission. The Beirut Declaration presented a vision of the role and tasks of ESCWA for the twenty-first century aimed at

enhancing the role of the Commission at the regional level, in line with the Secretary-General's efforts to revitalize the performance of the United Nations at the dawn of the third millennium. The direction of the programme is also guided by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session, in May 2001, that ESCWA secretariat activities should focus on a limited number of priorities and be correspondingly restricted. It was also recommended that attention should be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration and on reviewing the existing organizational structure of the secretariat in order best to serve Arab integration.

18.4 Substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Commission. The overall strategy of ESCWA is designed around six interdependent and complementary subprogrammes. In fulfilling its objective, ESCWA will place emphasis on further integration of the human and social components into development planning, focusing on building institutional and economic management capacity, increasing productivity and competitiveness of production sectors and increasing the use of available human resources, formulating and promoting positive social values and supporting civil society and governance.

18.5 The main elements of the strategy to be pursued by ESCWA reside in the following:

(a) Assisting member countries in coping with the multidimensional requirements of globalization by fostering competitiveness, based on economic efficiency and the acquisition of the requisite technological skills;

(b) Serving as a platform for networking and the exchange of experiences and best practices among member countries, among all actors in the development process and, in particular, civil society institutions, in support of transparent governance, and among United Nations agencies with a regional mandate;

(c) Advocating a multisectoral approach in addressing issues of common programmatic concern, chiefly, poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, least

advantaged groups, acquisition of information and communication technologies, transparent governance and partnership with civil society institutions, popular participation and issues related to the environment;

(d) Advising member countries on the integration of the human and social dimensions of development into their policies by focusing on capacity-building with regard to human resources; proposing mechanisms through which to identify the specifications and qualifications required of human resources that would enable member countries to become the driving force of social and economic development; and providing appropriate training and technical assistance in relevant fields;

(e) Providing assistance in producing and/or generating reliable, customized, harmonized regional data and indicators compatible with internationally recognized statistical standards, as a tool for sound analysis and judicious policy formulation; assisting in data collection, research and analysis; and monitoring trends;

(f) Providing continued support to the least developed member country (Yemen) and other countries with special needs and, in particular, in terms of promoting post-conflict development and reconstruction in ESCWA member countries that have witnessed war and civil strife.

18.6 In fulfilling its mandates, ESCWA has maintained, and shall continue to maintain, cooperative arrangements with member countries and with a host of United Nations and non-United Nations regional organizations, notably the League of Arab States, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, other regional commissions, the United Nations Development Group, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Subprogramme 1

Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

Objective

18.7 The objective of this subprogramme is to have a positive impact on regional integration and cooperation among ESCWA member countries, based on a concerted approach to integrated sustainable management of water and energy and the production sectors.

Strategy

18.8 Within ESCWA, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The ESCWA region is marked by its tendency towards desertification along with scarcity and uneven distribution of water resources and the existence of substantial, but unequally distributed, fossil and renewable energy reserves. The region is also known for the low productivity and weak competitiveness of the production sector, which is due, at least in part, to the inefficient use of water and energy, particularly in agriculture and industry. Accordingly, activities will target four interrelated components, namely: (a) integrated sustainable management of water and energy resources; (b) sound environmental policies; (c) sustainable development through competitiveness and harmonization of the production sectors; and (d) policies and measures for integrating the social dimension in the sustainable development process.

18.9 Regional cooperation mechanisms in these areas will be formulated and promoted. Efforts will also be exerted to increase awareness of decision makers and users with regard to critical water and energy issues. Member countries will be assisted in addressing the consequences of economic reform policies and restructuring and privatization in these sectors.

18.10 Particular emphasis will be placed on the identification of appropriate solutions for the problems involved and advocacy for rationalizing the utilization of water and energy resources. The subprogramme will promote integrated sustainable management policies and policy measures for available and potential water and energy resources by providing training programmes and materials on building institutional and

human capacities in the management of these resources, leading to more efficient use thereof, particularly in agriculture and industry. This would further lead to continuous updating of the database of water and energy resources and, eventually, to a geographic information system for these resources.

18.11 Special attention will be given to the formulation and promotion of regional cooperation mechanisms and the legal and technical aspects of such cooperation in the management of shared water resources and energy networks.

18.12 Member countries will be provided with advice on ways and means of incorporating the right to development in the management of water, energy and environment protection. In particular, support will be provided to decision makers in their efforts to integrate into their policies and plans the social aspects of managing water, energy and environment. Ways and means of increasing the access of the poor, especially poor women, to cheap energy and water, especially clean water, will be identified, and options that would facilitate the creation of new jobs and generate income, particularly for poor women, will be pursued.

18.13 Activities will facilitate the establishment and coordination of monitoring and reporting mechanisms on environmental issues, maintaining and developing region-wide indicators of sustainable development and promoting the implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 by supporting Governments in their efforts to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and facilitating the development of regional positions and proposals, which will be reported in the global agenda of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, in cooperation with relevant regional organizations.

18.14 Support will be provided to member countries in the formulation and implementation, at the national and regional levels, of coordinated sectoral policy tools in agriculture and industry, including national and regional harmonization of norms and application of certification and accreditation schemes.

18.15 Special attention will be paid to enterprise development, networking and clustering, innovative schemes in management and technology and improved linkages between technology and sectoral development, in order to harness the efforts of individual member countries to enhance competitiveness and turn

innovations into an effective vehicle for development. Efforts will be made to assist member countries in filling the gaps in vertical chains and/or in the introduction of knowledge-based high-tech industries by promoting development of the production and service sectors in order to achieve maximum value added, competitiveness and sustainability to the economies of member countries and the region. Measures to facilitate capacity-building will be identified in order to enhance the productivity, competitiveness and environmental compatibility of service, industrial and agricultural outputs.

Expected accomplishments

18.16 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased ability of member countries to formulate integrated policies for the efficient and sustainable management of water and energy resources; (b) increased regional cooperation in the management of shared surface and groundwater resources and energy networks; (c) increased capacity of member countries in the formulation and implementation of policies and policy measures for sustainable development; and (d) increased use by member countries of tools and techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors.

Indicators of achievement

18.17 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of countries formulating environmentally sound policies, policy measures and technologies for the management of water and energy resources; (b) the number of countries joining in the implementation of the formulated regional framework for cooperation in management of shared surface and groundwater resources and energy networks; (c) the number of countries adopting and implementing policies and environmental management measures and safeguards to protect the environment and decrease pollution; and (d) the number of countries adopting innovative technology and management initiatives to enhance competitiveness and more sustainable and efficient use of such technology.

Subprogramme 2 Integrated social policies

Objective

18.18 The objective of this subprogramme is to achieve regional cooperation in the advocacy and promotion of comprehensive and integrated social policies that are region-specific, culturally sensitive and have a practical orientation.

Strategy

18.19 Within ESCWA, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Social Development Division, which assumes an important role in assisting member countries in addressing such social problems as the unbalanced provision of basic social services, the need for comprehensive and integrated social policies and the need to address the social and cultural impact of globalization on society, including the uneven distribution of the benefits of trade liberalization and the rapid pace of technological change. The subprogramme will therefore be oriented towards the promotion of an integrated and holistic approach to social development that is based on the right to development and the promotion of positive cultural and social values. Under this subprogramme, the establishment of policies for social development continues to be a priority.

18.20 In carrying out its mandates, the subprogramme will pursue the following strategies:

(a) Promoting focused, gender-sensitive policies, approaches, methodologies and programmes that contribute to furthering social integration, inclusion and equity;

(b) Providing advice to member countries on the formulation of comprehensive and integrated social policies, based on research, pilot projects and best practices, that take into consideration the strong and intricate links between the economic and social aspects of development, with special emphasis on poverty and unemployment reduction, employment-linked education, empowerment of women, social integration and population, urban development and housing;

(c) Providing, through ESCWA, a forum for the establishment of stable networking links and the exchange of experiences and best practices between all partners and actors in the social development process at

the regional level, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and in order to further popular participation, transparency and accountability in relation to social policies in general and urban governance in particular, as a prerequisite for sustainable socio-economic development;

(d) Furnishing assistance to member countries in strengthening institutions and the capacity of national and regional mechanisms leading to integrated regional responses and concerted actions in relation to the agendas of global conferences;

(e) Assisting member countries in formulating strategies and policies for sustainable human development and integrated policy action, with particular regard to poverty and unemployment reduction and with a focus on youth and women, through improving access to better education and upgrading skills to correspond with the needs of the new labour market. To this end, ESCWA will conduct field surveys and analyses on the employment status of youth and women, labour force supply and demand, business associations, improvements to employment policies and the possibility of exchange of labour among member countries and on advising or implementing projects on self-employment opportunities;

(f) Contributing to increasing awareness of gender issues by conducting media campaigns, organizing meetings and workshops on critical issues and building the capacities of national mechanisms for the empowerment of women and their advancement by advocating an approach based on gender equity and equality in the region, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into policies, plans and programmes;

(g) Providing support to member countries and local authorities in formulating appropriate, innovative and integrated policies and programmes on population and development, improving the physical environment and advocating partnership between governments and municipalities and increasing capacity for popular participation in urban development at the local level, particularly in cities and other urban areas;

(h) According special attention to post-conflict reconstruction which takes into consideration the economic, social and physical dimensions of development.

Expected accomplishments

18.21 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) improved ability of member countries to formulate integrated social policies and programmes that incorporate advantageous cultural values; (b) increased networking mechanisms for social development among partners and actors in the development process at the regional, national and local levels; (c) improved capacity of policy makers in formulating poverty reduction policies, measures, mechanisms and programmes to implement projects aimed at providing the population with opportunities for productive employment; (d) increased responsiveness of policy makers to the formulation of gender-sensitive policies, programmes and mechanisms, understanding of the main issues involved in the empowerment of women and awareness of the significance of gender mainstreaming; and (e) improved ability of policy makers to address, in their strategies, population issues and critical issues with regard to good urban governance and security of tenure.

Indicators of achievement

18.22 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of ESCWA countries formulating and implementing appropriate social policies; (b) the number of joint committees and projects between Governments and civil society institutions at the regional, national and local levels; (c) increase in the number of measures introduced by member countries in order to reduce poverty and unemployment, especially among youth and women, and ensure adequate education and/or technical training facilities for the poor; (d) the number of countries and institutions incorporating a gender perspective into policies, plans and statistics, leading to greater participation of women in the labour force, increase in the number of poor women starting their own businesses, changes in legislation in favour of women and increase in the number of countries acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and (e) increased number of population issues and critical issues of good urban governance in the strategies of policy makers.

Subprogramme 3 Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

Objective

18.23 The objective of this subprogramme is to increase the capacity of member countries to coordinate their economic policies and achieve economic development by providing a quantitative assessment of economic and financial data and trends.

Strategy

18.24 Within ESCWA, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Economic Analysis Division.

18.25 The strategy will target three related issues: (a) macroeconomic performance and trends; (b) analysis of the performance of production sectors; and (c) economic forecasting. Implementation of the subprogramme would require the provision of assistance to member countries in the formulation of appropriate economic policies and development strategies in response to the new challenges and opportunities. Thus, the subprogramme will conduct in-depth reviews, assessments and analyses of the economic situation and trends in the region with a view to providing information and tools to member countries that will enable them to meet national and regional policy-making and planning requirements effectively and contribute to regional integration.

18.26 The subprogramme will also undertake an analysis of the main trends in the production sectors of the economy as well as comparative economic studies among a set or subset of selected service and production sectors in member countries in order to assess the comparative strengths of these sectors at the domestic and regional levels. Moreover, it will analyse macroeconomic issues and the performance of production sectors using current analytical, forecasting and policy simulation tools. It will follow up international economic trends and transitions relevant to national and regional economies, especially an analysis of their impact on employment and other social issues. An analysis will also be conducted of regional financial markets and the mobilization of financial resources; fiscal developments; trends in foreign and domestic debt; banking systems and credit markets; and trends in the environment of increased

competitiveness. Member countries will be supported in order to increase their capacity for economic analysis in decision-making at all levels. This will be achieved by organizing training programmes, preparing training material and providing technical assistance, with emphasis on the analytical skills aspects of human resource development and the use of a harmonized set of microeconomic and macroeconomic indicators and tools, as well as economic forecasting models and multidimensional and interdisciplinary indicators of development.

18.27 The subprogramme will also focus on the assessment of economic reform policies in member countries and their impact on employment and social issues.

Expected accomplishments

18.28 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) utilization of macroeconomic variables and trends, and main trends in the production sectors of the economy by decision makers in achieving development goals; (b) increased use by member countries of regional integration indicators; (c) improved capacity of member countries and business associations for monitoring productivity trends and the performance of the production sectors; and (d) improved capacity of member countries to assess their comparative economic situation at the regional and international levels, and improved capacity of decision makers in member countries for timely intervention.

Indicators of achievement

18.29 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) increase in the number of countries utilizing economic forecasting models and multidimensional and interdisciplinary indicators of development; (b) the number of regional economic reports published using regional integration indicators developed by ESCWA; (c) the number of member countries using economic indicators to assess the performance of production sectors; and (d) increase in the number of assessments by member countries of their economic reform policies and their comparative economic situations.

Subprogramme 4 Regional integration and responding to globalization

Objective

18.30 The objective of this subprogramme is to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital in order to meet the challenges posed by the trend towards globalization.

Strategy

18.31 Within ESCWA, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Globalization and Regional Integration Division. The strategy includes four complementary components, namely:

(a) Integrating regional markets to cope with emerging economic blocs. Emphasis will be on facilitating transboundary flows of goods, services and persons through:

(i) Continuous development of the integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM), which has already been launched. To this effect, the subprogramme will target regional agreements on the harmonization of standards of the modal components of the ITSAM network, developing a regional transport database through the harmonization and networking of statistical information from national systems as well as the formulation of a methodological framework for policy analysis and application;

(ii) Improving inter-Arab trade and tourism by facilitating border-crossing at ports and inland by reducing customs and operational formalities;

(iii) Cooperating with regional commissions in the development of operational schemes for building the capacity of member countries to develop land and land-cum-sea interregional linkages;

(iv) Promoting United Nations agreements such as the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic of 1965 and the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets of 1975;

(v) Promoting the adoption and application of the recommendations of global initiatives such as the Economic Commission for Europe Centre for

the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport and the trade efficiency programme of UNCTAD;

(vi) Organizing awareness drives on the role of the Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA) and other bilateral agreements in order to prepare member countries more effectively for trade liberalization and build regional capacity in this area;

(b) Responding to the trends of global trade liberalization in order to minimize potential threats and seize the opportunities offered by:

(i) Closely monitoring and analysing the evolving trends of the new regional and global trading systems, with special emphasis on AFTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO);

(ii) Conducting expert meetings and capacity-building workshops in order to prepare member countries more effectively for future rounds of multilateral negotiations and formulate a concerted strategy on issues of common interest;

(iii) Providing advisory services to member countries on various AFTA and WTO issues as well as partnership agreements;

(c) Assisting member countries in defining efficient inter-Arab trade and export policies for their main products in order to halt the decline in the share of the ESCWA region in international trade and improve their regional and global trading performance. In order to take advantage of increased international competition, advice will be given to member countries on ways of improving free competition in domestic markets for imported products or services. The subprogramme will also study the possible negative impact of competition on domestically produced goods and provide advice on ways and means of developing local competitive capacity;

(d) Enhancing regional development through encouraging domestic as well as foreign investments. To this end the subprogramme will:

(i) Review, assess and analyse existing credit and investment policies and incentives and legal environments in selected member countries, drawing comparisons with selected success stories, such as those of the Republic of Korea and Japan, with particular emphasis on intraregional incentives;

(ii) Formulate specific recommendations for the improvement of existing investment laws, regulations and incentives in order to increase significantly the attractiveness of member countries to domestic and foreign investments, with particular emphasis on intraregional capital flows and the return of capital invested outside the region;

(iii) Formulate agreements on such recommendations to be adopted by the respective member countries.

Expected accomplishments

18.32 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries; (b) increased awareness among member countries of the challenges to their economies and opportunities created by the new regional and international trading systems; (c) increased attractiveness of member countries for domestic, intraregional and foreign investment; and (d) increased export capacity of ESCWA member countries.

Indicators of achievement

18.33 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of countries accepting and/or adopting harmonization schemes proposed by ESCWA in order to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, persons and capital; (b) the number of countries responding to ESCWA initiatives on globalization and regional integration; (c) the number of member countries accepting and/or adopting recommendations and schemes for enhancing the attractiveness of their business environment for domestic and foreign investment; and (d) the number of countries adopting efficient export policies resulting in increased export performance.

Subprogramme 5 Information and communication technology for regional integration

Objective

18.34 The objective of this subprogramme is to increase the capabilities of member countries to

harness information and communication technologies for their development.

Strategy

18.35 Within ESCWA, substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Information and Communication Technology Division. The subprogramme will provide support with regard to the development of information and communication technologies policies, infrastructure and applications. To this effect, the subprogramme will take advantage of the convening power of the United Nations and aim at forging partnerships between the various regional stakeholders. It will build upon and add value to existing regional activities by helping to coalesce and scale up these efforts by facilitating coordination and collaboration among Governments, NGOs and the private sector, as well as the relevant regional and international institutions. It will also pursue issues related to information and communication technology-for-development as well as those identified in the Millennium Declaration that are of relevance to ESCWA countries.

18.36 The rapid development of information and communication technology has opened untapped potentials that could be put to the service of sustainable development and enable ESCWA countries to integrate into the global economy. However, the challenge imposed on the developing countries by the ever widening digital divide has given rise to a number of initiatives aimed at arresting this trend and turning it into a digital opportunity. Chief among these is the Information and Communication Technology Task Force, led by the United Nations and launched on 20 November 2001. This initiative is global in its conception, yet aims to be regional and specific in terms of national and regional needs and, in particular, the needs of the poor and marginalized groups.

18.37 The subprogramme will organize stakeholder campaigns and help develop broad-based programmes in order to raise awareness among decision makers and top officials of the region with regard to the impact and implications of information and communication technology on various sectors and on national and regional development policies. Advocacy creation will be sought by organizing regional seminars for policy makers, facilitating the development and promotion of national e-strategies and policies, and human and institutional capacity-building.

18.38 As a regional node, the subprogramme will establish cooperation and coordination mechanisms between regional players, both public and private, engaged in information and communication technologies development activities in order to promote coherence and synergy and identify joint endeavours. It will also conduct detailed studies in order to harmonize standards and protocols for interconnectivity.

18.39 The subprogramme will monitor and assess, from the ESCWA regional perspective, information and communication technology applications relevant to the issues of information and communication technology-for-development and make recommendations in this respect. The subprogramme will thus serve as a catalyst for the pooling of experiences.

Expected accomplishments

18.40 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased response of member countries to integrated information and communication technology policies in the development process; (b) improved connectivity in and between member countries; (c) increased positive impact on selected fields of development through wider utilization of promising information and communication technology applications and success stories; and (d) improved access to information and communication technology of the poor strata of the population in the region in order to reduce the digital divide.

Indicators of achievement

18.41 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of countries accepting and/or adopting ESCWA policy recommendations on information and communication technology; (b) the number of governmental, private sector and civil society institutions participating in networking schemes at the national and regional levels; (c) the number of countries implementing promising information and communication technology applications; and (d) increase in the number of information and communication technology programmes and training facilities that target the least advantaged groups in society.

Subprogramme 6 Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making

Objective

18.42 The objective is to improve the statistical capabilities of countries in the region for informed decision-making and improve the availability and timeliness of comparable statistical information.

Strategy

18.43 The activities of this subprogramme will be coordinated by the Statistics Coordination Unit, which reports to the Deputy Executive Secretary. These activities will be conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and other United Nations international and regional agencies for the use of harmonized statistical concepts, methodologies and questionnaires compatible with internationally recognized statistical standards, within and outside the ESCWA secretariat. This would contribute to the development of reliable, timely, standardized and customized national and regional statistics and indicators needed by policy makers, analysts, decision makers, public and private enterprises, researchers and regional and international organizations in the ESCWA region. It would also meet the demand generated by the necessity of producing statistics and indicators for following up on the recommendations of United Nations global conferences.

18.44 The Sustainable Development and Production Division will undertake the development of customized sectoral statistics and indicators in order to meet the policy-making and planning requirements of ESCWA member countries effectively in specialized areas such as agriculture, industry, energy and water resources, environmental and other systems of statistics and development indicators. It will also provide advisory services and training aimed at increasing the technical capacity of countries in the region.

18.45 The Social Development Division will undertake the development of customized social statistics and indicators to meet the social policy-making requirements of those States and their civil societies effectively in specialized areas such as gender-disaggregated data, population, education, unemployment, urbanization and other systems of statistics. It will also provide advisory services and

training aimed at increasing the technical capacity of countries in the region.

18.46 The Economic Analysis Division will undertake responsibility for increasing the technical capacity of countries in the region and, in particular, the implementation by ESCWA member countries of the 1993 system of national accounts and international comparison programme in order to produce purchasing power parity-comparable statistics that effectively meet regional policy-making and planning requirements of those States and develop customized economic statistics and sustainable development indicators.

18.47 The Globalization and Regional Integration Division will undertake the development of customized statistics and indicators on international and intraregional flows of goods, people and capital between member countries, as well as spatial, transport, infrastructure and regional integration indicators. It will also provide advisory services and training aimed at increasing the technical capacity of countries in the region.

18.48 Activities of the subprogramme will allow ESCWA to play the role of focal point for the region, together with the United Nations Statistics Division and United Nations and international organizations for the collection, processing and customization of data and updating databases shared with those agencies. These data will serve as the input for a number of statistical, economic, social and technical studies for all ESCWA subprogrammes. This will enhance the integrity of information within ESCWA and between ESCWA and all other United Nations and international bodies. Contributions will be made to the building of the statistical capacity of member countries by providing them with assistance in upgrading the statistical capabilities of their national cadres and improving and expanding their statistical infrastructures in accordance with international criteria, concepts and methodologies, in order to facilitate the implementation of international programmes and recommendations.

18.49 Member countries will be assisted in the adoption and utilization of economic statistics, national accounts and measuring indicators, mainly the sustainable development indicators, needed for monitoring development policies as well as implementation of corrective measures and adjustment of economic policies. A core of social statistics and

measurement indicators will be developed for adoption by ESCWA member countries in order to monitor various aspects of the quality of life development goals as specified in the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, such as employment, poverty, gender and other issues. Activities will promote cooperation and the exchange of information, views and experiences among national statistical agencies in the region, with a view to enhancing regional harmonization and integration and improving the regional role in the international arena with regard to statistics.

Expected accomplishments

18.50 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) improved national capacity for the production and dissemination of quality statistics; (b) improved capacity of member countries for the implementation of comparable national accounts; (c) improved capacity of member countries for the production and utilization of sectoral statistics and indicators to measure productivity and efficiency and monitor development policies in these sectors and, in particular, sustainable development indicators and statistics in new areas such as gender and poverty; and (d) increased production and utilization by member countries of a core of social indicators needed for monitoring social development policies.

Indicators of achievement

18.51 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) increased number of member countries using statistical tools and international statistical standards for analysis; (b) increased availability of national economic and social data using timely, reliable and comparable national accounts; (c) increased utilization of sectoral statistics and indicators, especially with regard to regional integration indicators and statistics in new areas; and (d) increased inclusion of core social indicators in decision-making.

Legislative mandates

Programme 18

Economic and social development in Western Asia

General Assembly resolutions

- 49/103 — Food and agricultural development (subprogrammes 1 and 4)
- 51/176 — ~~Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (subprogrammes 2 and 5)~~
- 52/100 — ~~Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (all subprogrammes)~~
- 52/194 — Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty (subprogrammes 2 and 4)
- 52/195 — Women in Development (subprogrammes 2 and 4)
- 52/196 — Developing Human Resources for Development (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4)
- 53/155 — The right to development (all subprogrammes)
- 53/198 — ~~Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4)~~
- 55/2 — United Nations Millennium Declaration (all subprogrammes)
- 56/76 — Towards global partnerships (all subprogrammes)
- 56/95 — Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
- 56/111 — Assistance to the Palestinian people (all subprogrammes)
- 56/132 — Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (all subprogrammes)
- 56/150 — The right to development (all subprogrammes)
- 56/177 — Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (all subprogrammes)
- 56/182 — Science and technology for development (subprogrammes 1 and 5)
- 56/188 — Women in development (all subprogrammes)
- 56/189 — Human resources development (all subprogrammes)
- 56/226 — World Summit on Sustainable Development (subprogrammes 1 and 5)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1996/46 Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (subprogrammes 2 and 3)
- 1998/43 **Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (all subprogrammes)**
- 1999/5 **Poverty eradication and capacity-building (all subprogrammes)**
- 2001/21 **Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits (all subprogrammes)**
- 2001/30 **Establishment of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technical Innovation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (subprogrammes 1 and 5)**

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

- ~~1998/43 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (all subprogrammes)~~

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 220 (XX) Adoption of the Beirut Declaration (all subprogrammes)
- 237 (XXI) **Rehabilitation of economic sectors in Palestine (all subprogrammes)**

Subprogramme 1**Integrated management of regional resources for sustainable development***General Assembly resolutions*

- ~~47/194 Capacity-building for Agenda 21~~
- ~~49/111 Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session~~
- ~~50/126 Water supply and sanitation~~
- 55/187 **Industrial development cooperation**
- 55/198 **Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development**
- 55/199 **Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**
- 56/192 **Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003**
- 56/196 **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**

- 56/199** **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind**
- 56/200** **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005**

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1991/85** **Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan**
- 1991/86** **Development and efficient use of energy resources**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 233 (XXI)** **The strengthening of cooperation between member countries in the field of shared water resources**
- 234 (XXI)** **Rationalization and increased efficiency of energy and the use of renewable sources of energy**

Commission on Sustainable Development resolution

- 6/1** **Strategic approaches to freshwater management**

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

General Assembly resolutions

- ~~**51/177** **Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)**~~
- ~~**52/25** **Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development**~~
- 52/194** **Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty**
- ~~**53/120** **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**~~
- ~~**53/146** **Human rights and extreme poverty**~~
- 53/183** **Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**
- 55/106** **Human rights and extreme poverty**
- 55/210** **Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication**
- 56/113** **Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family**
- 56/114** **Cooperatives in social development**

- 56/115** **Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century**
- 56/117** **Policies and programmes involving youth**
- 56/129** **Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**
- 56/205** **Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)**
- 56/228** **Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing**

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1997/17** **Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action**
- ~~**1998/43** **Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system**~~
- 1998/44** **Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits**
- 2000/1** **Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing**
- 2000/10** **Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities**

Subprogramme 3

Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

General Assembly resolution

- ~~**48/180** **Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development**~~
- ~~**49/97** **Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade**~~
- ~~**49/101** **United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency**~~
- ~~**50/91** **Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities**~~
- ~~**52/180** **Global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries**~~
- ~~**52/186** **Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership**~~
- ~~**52/196** **Developing human resources for development**~~
- ~~**52/205** **Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries**~~
- ~~**53/155** **Right to development**~~

- 53/169 — Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
- 53/170 — International trade and development
- 53/175 — Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
- 56/181 — Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity

Subprogramme 4

Regional integration and adapting to globalization

General Assembly resolutions

- 51/172 — Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system
- 52/184 — Science and technology for development
- 53/177 — Industrial development cooperation
- 52/180 — Global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries
- 53/197 — International Year of Microcredit, 2005
- 54/197 — Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in the developing countries
- 55/191 — Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
- 55/279 — Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
- 56/165 — Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights
- 56/178 — International trade and development
- 56/181 — Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity
- 56/184 — Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
- 56/202 — Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
- 56/209 — Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution

**235 (XXI) Adoption of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab
Mashreq**

Subprogramme 5

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for regional development

General Assembly resolution

**54/231 Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the
context of globalization and interdependence**

Economic and Social Council resolution

1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts

**1997/1 The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics
systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States**

Subprogramme 6

Comparable statistics for improved planning and policy decisions

Economic and Social Council resolution

1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts
